



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Planning & Development Committee
February 13, 2019**

RE: HB-6939, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL CULTURAL DISTRICTS

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports HB-6939, which would authorize municipalities to establish cultural districts.

Connecticut offers residents and tourists a rich array of art galleries, museums, theaters, concerts, science centers, nature centers, historic buildings and other activities. We need to do more to highlight these venues to promote tourism and strengthen our local economies.

By authorizing the creation of municipal cultural districts, HB-6939 will highlight these opportunities and encourage residents and tourists to take advantage of all that Connecticut has to offer as a wonderful place to live and work.

COST is the voice of Connecticut's small towns, representing smaller communities throughout the state on a wide range of public policy issues.